

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An isolated antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family wherein said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a part of the protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the following group:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate to the nucleotide sequence of (a) as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, and
- (c) fragments of (a) or (b) which encode a protein which has the cartilage or bone inducing activities of a mature protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The antibody according to claim 20, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) An antibody or antibody fragment according to claim 20, which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family wherein the protein to which the antibody or antibody fragment binds consists of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): The antibody according to claim 35, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claims 24 -29 (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A kit for detecting a protein of the TGF- β family, comprising
an antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family, and
a reaction buffer,

wherein said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a part of the protein which is encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the following group:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate to the nucleotide sequence of (a) as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, and
- (c) fragments of (a) or (b) which encode a protein which has the cartilage or bone inducing activities of a mature protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 31- 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33. (Previously presented) An isolated antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family wherein said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a fragment of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said fragment of SEQ ID NO:3 comprises the amino acids shown in SEQ ID NO:22.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) An isolated antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family wherein said antibody or antibody fragment binds to a part of the protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the following group:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate to the nucleotide sequence of (a) as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, and
- (c) fragments of (a) or (b) which encode a protein which retains the cartilage or bone inducing activities of the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) An isolated antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is selected from the following group:

- (a) a protein encoded by DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1,

(b) a protein encoded by a DNA consisting of a fragment of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 comprises the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 6,

(c) a protein encoded by DNA consisting of a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate to the nucleotide sequence of (a) as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code or (b),

(d) a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and

(e) a protein consisting of a fragment of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said fragment of SEQ ID NO:3 comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:22.